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*Guillaume's Nelumbos*

— — —  
EDGAR POE  
— — —

# The Gold B



LONDON

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LIMITED

Broadway, Ludgate Hill

*Manchester and New York*

—  
1891











# The Gold Bug



Guillaume's *Nelumbos*

EDGAR POE

# The Gold Bug

*Illustrations by Mittis*



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Broadway, Ludgate Hill

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1894

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ASHER GENT  
THOMAS GENT  
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## The Gold Bug







What ho! what ho! this fellow is dancing mad  
He hath been bitten by the Tarantula.

*All in the Wrong.*

Many years ago, I contracted an intimacy with a Mr. William Legrand. He was of an ancient Huguenot family, and had once been wealthy; but a series of misfortunes had reduced him to want. To avoid the mortification consequent upon his disasters, he left New

van's Island, near Charleston, S  
Carolina.

This Island is a very singular one. It consists of little else but the sea sand, and is about three miles long. Its breadth at no point exceeds a quarter of a mile. It is separated from the main land by a scarcely perceptible creek, or its way through a wilderness of reeds and slime, a favourite haunt of the marsh-hen. The vegetation, as might be supposed, is scarcely at least dwarfish. No trees of any magnitude are to be seen. At the western extremity, where

fever, may be found, indeed, the bristley palmetto ; but the whole island, with the exception of this western point, and a line of hard, white beach on the sea-coast, is covered with a dense undergrowth of the sweet myrtle so much prized by the horticulturists of England. The shrub here often attains the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and forms an almost impenetrable coppice, burthening the air with its fragrance.

In the inmost recesses of this coppice, not far from the eastern or more remote end of the island, Legrand had built himself a small hut, which he occupied when I first, by mere accident, made his acquaint-



esteem. I found him well educated with unusual powers of mind, but infected with misanthropy, and subject to perverse moods of alternate enthusiasm and melancholy. He had with him many books, but rarely employed them. His chief amusements were gunning and fishing, or sauntering along the beach and through the myrtles, in quest of shells or entomological specimens; his collection of the latter might have been envied by a Swammerdam. In these excursions he was usually accompanied by an old negro, called Jupiter, who had been

to abandon what he considered his right of attendance upon the footsteps of his young "Massa Will." It is not improbable that the relatives of Legrand, conceiving him to be somewhat unsettled in intellect, had contrived to instil this obstinacy into Jupiter, with a view to the supervision and guardianship of the wanderer.

The winters in the latitude of Sullivan's Island are seldom very severe, and in the fall of the year it is a rare event indeed when a fire



able chilliness. Just before sunset I scrambled my way through the evergreens to the hut of my friend, whom I had not visited for several weeks—my residence being, at that time, in Charleston, a distance of nine miles from the Island, while the facilities of passage and repassage were very far behind those of the present day. Upon reaching the hut I rapped, as was my custom, and getting no reply, sought for the key where I knew it was secreted, unlocked the door and went in. A fine fire was blazing upon the hearth. It was a novelty, and

awaited patiently the arrival of my hosts.

Soon after dark they arrived, and gave me a most cordial welcome. Jupiter, grinning from ear to ear, bustled about to prepare some marsh-hens for supper. Legrand was in one of his fits—how else shall I term them?—of enthusiasm. He had found an unknown bivalve, forming a new genus, and, more than this, he had hunted down and secured with Jupiter's assistance, a *scarabæus* which he believed to be totally new, but in respect to which he wished to have my opinion on the morrow.

“And why not to-night?” I asked, rubbing my hands over the blaze, and wishing the whole tribe of *scarabæi* at the devil.

“Ah! if I had only known you



pay me a visit this very  
all others? As I was com  
I met Lieutenant G——,  
fort, and, very foolishly, I  
the bug; so it will be in  
for you to see it until the  
Stay here to-night, and I  
Jup down for it at sunri  
the loveliest thing in creat

“What?—sunrise?”

“Nonsense! no!—the  
is of a brilliant gold color  
the size of a large hick  
with two jet-black spots  
extremity of the back, and  
somewhat longer, at the ot  
*antennæ* are ——”

interrupted Jupiter; "de bug is a goole bug, solid, ebery bit of him, inside and all, sep him wing—nebber feel half so hebby a bug in my life."

"Well, suppose it is, Jup," replied Legrand, somewhat more earnestly, it seemed to me, than the case demanded, "is that any reason for you letting the birds burn? The colour"—here he turned to me—"is really almost enough to warrant Jupiter's idea. You never saw a more brilliant metallic lustre than the scales emit—but of this you cannot judge till to-morrow. In the meantime I can give you some idea of the shape." Saying this, he seated himself at a small table, on which were a pen and ink, but no paper. He looked for some in a drawer, but found none. "Never

his waistcoat pocket a scrap of what I took to be very dirty foolscap, and made upon it a rough drawing with the pen. While he did this, I retained my seat by the fire, for I was still chilly. When the design was complete, he handed it to me without rising. As I received it, a loud growl was heard, succeeded by a scratching at the door. Jupiter opened it, and a large Newfoundland, belonging to Legrand, rushed in, leaped upon my shoulders, and loaded me with caresses ; for I had shown him much attention during previous visits. When his gambols

“Well!” I said, after contemplating it for some minutes, “this is a strange *scarabæus*, I must confess: new to me: never saw anything like it before—unless it was a skull, or a death’s-head—which it more nearly resembles than anything else that has come under *my* observation.”

“A death’s-head!” echoed Legrand—“Oh—yes—well, it has something of that appearance upon paper, no doubt. The two upper black spots look like eyes, eh? and the longer one at the bottom like a mouth—and then the shape of the whole is oval.”

“Perhaps so,” said I; “but, Legrand, I fear you are no artist. I must wait until I see the beetle itself, if I am to form any idea of its personal appearance.”

*should* do it at least—have had good masters, and flatter myself that I am not quite a blockhead.”

“But, my dear fellow, you are joking, then,” said I; “this is a very passable *skull*—indeed, I may say that it is a very *excellent* skull, according to the vulgar notions about such specimens of physiology—and your *scarabæus* must be the queerest *scarabæus* in the world if it resembles it. Why, we may get up a very thrilling bit of superstition upon this hint. I presume you will call the bug *scarabæus caput hominis*, or something of that kind—there are many similar titles in the



... "Well!" I said,  
after contemplating it for  
some minutes. "This is  
a strange scarabæus."

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to be getting unaccountably  
on the subject; "I am sure  
I can't see the *antennæ*. I made  
them as distinct as they are in the  
drawing of the insect, and I presume that  
you meant."

"Well, well," I said, "perhaps  
I have—still I don't see them;"  
I handed him the paper without  
a word of remark, not wishing to  
show my temper: but I was much  
surprised at the turn affairs had  
taken. His ill-humour puzzled me—  
for the drawing of the beetle,  
which I have positively *no antennæ*  
and the whole *did* bear a  
strong resemblance to the ordi-  
nary shape of a death's-head.

I received the paper very pee-  
sily and was about to crumple it.  
I was about to throw it on the fire.  
I took a casual glance at the design





violently red—in another as excessively pale. For some minutes I continued to scrutinize the drawing minutely where he sat. At length he arose, took a candle from the table, and proceeded to seat himself upon a sea-chest in the farthest corner of the room. Here again he made an anxious examination of the paper; turning it in all directions. He said nothing, however, and his conduct greatly astonished me; yet I thought it prudent not to exacerbate the growing moodiness of his temper by any comment. Presently he took from his coat-pocket a wallet, placed the paper

demeanour ; but his original air of enthusiasm had quite disappeared. Yet he seemed not so much sulky as abstracted. As the evening wore away he became more and more absorbed in reverie, from which no sallies of mine could arouse him. It had been my intention to pass the night at the hut, as I had frequently done before, but, seeing my host in this mood, I deemed it proper to take leave. He did not press me to remain, but, as I departed, he shook my hand with even more than his usual cordiality.

It was about a month after this (and during the interval I had seen nothing of Legrand), when I received a visit, at Charleston, from his man, Jupiter. I had never seen the good old negro look so dispirited.

"Well, Jup, said I, what  
the matter now?—how is y  
master?"

"Why, to speak de troof, ma  
him not so berry well as mo  
be."

"Not well! I am truly sorr  
hear it. What does he comp  
of?"

"Dar! dat's it!—him neber f  
of notin—but him berry sick  
all dat."

"*Very* sick, Jupiter!—why d  
you say so at once? Is he cont  
to bed?"

"No, dat he aint—he aint  
nowhar—dat's just whar the

...told you what ails him?"

Why, massa, taint worf while  
...git mad about de matter—  
...Will say noffin at all aint de  
...wid him—but den what make  
...about looking dis here way,  
...head down and he soldiers  
...as white as a gose? And  
...keep a syphon all de  
...  
...saps a what, Jupiter?"

...a syphon wid de figgers  
...de queerest figgers I  
...see. Ise gittin to be  
...I tell you. Hab for to  
...mighty light eye pon him  
...Told...

hadn't de heart arter all—he look so berry poorly.”

“ Eh?—what?—ah yes!—upon the whole I think you had better not be too severe with the poor fellow—don't flog him, Jupiter—he can't very well stand it—but can you form no idea of what has occasioned this illness, or rather this change of conduct? Has anything unpleasant happened since I saw you?”

“ No, massa, dey aint bin noffin onpleasant *since* den—'twas *fore* den I'm feared—'twas de berry day you was dare.”

"De ing—I'm berry sartain dat Massa Will bin bit somewhere about he head by dat goode bug."

"And what cause have you, Jupiter for such a supposition?"



"Claws enuff, massa, and mouff too. I nebber did see sich a deuced bug—he kick and he bite eberyting what cum near him. Massa Will cotch him fuss, but had for to let him go gin mighty quick, I tell you—den was de time he must ha got

wouldn't take hold of him wid  
my finger, but I catch him wid a  
piece ob paper dat I found. I rap  
him up in de paper and stuff piece  
ob it in he mouff—dat was de  
way."

"And you think, then, that your  
master was really bitten by the  
beetle, and that the bite made him  
sick?"

"I don't tink noffin about it—I  
nose it. What make him dream  
bout de goole so much, if taint  
cause he bit by de goole bug? Ise  
heerd bout dem goole bugs fore dis."

"But how do you know he dreams  
about gold?"

“ Well, Jup, perhaps you are right ; but to what fortunate circumstance am I to attribute the honour of a visit from you to-day ? ”

“ What de matter, massa ? ”

“ Did you bring any message from Mr. Legrand ? ”

“ No, massa, I bring dis here pissel ; ” and here Jupiter handed me a note, which ran thus :—

MY DEAR ———

Why have I not seen you for so long a time ? I hope you have not been so foolish as to take offence at any little *brusquerie* of mine ; but no ; that is improbable.

Since I saw you I have had great cause for anxiety. I have something to tell you, yet scarcely know how to tell it, or whether I should tell it at all.

I have not been quite well for



ance, by his well-meant attentions  
Would you believe it?—he had prepared a huge stick, the other day, with which to chastise me for giving him the slip, and spending the day, *solus*, among the hills on the main land. I verily believe that my ill looks alone saved me a flogging.

I have made no addition to my cabinet since we met.

If you can, in any way, make it convenient, come over with Jupiter. *Do* come. I wish to see you *to-night*, upon business of importance. I assure you that it is of the *highest* importance.

.....

uncasiness. Its whole style differed materially from that of Legrand. What could he be dreaming of? What new crotchet possessed his excitable brain? What "business of the highest importance" could *he* possibly have to transact? Jupiter's account of him boded no good. I dreaded lest the continued pressure of misfortune had, at length, fairly unsettled the reason of my friend. Without a moment's hesitation, therefore, I prepared to accompany the negro.

Upon reaching the wharf, I noticed a scythe and three spades, all apparently new, lying in the bottom of the boat in which we were to embark.

"What is the meaning of all this, Jup?" I inquired.

"Him syfe, massa, and spade."

“Him the syfe and de spade what Massa Will sis pon my buying for him in de town, and de debbils own lot of money I had to gib for em.”

“But what, in the name of all that is mysterious, is your ‘Massa Will’ going to do with scythes and spades?”

“Dat’s more dan *I* know, and debbil take me if I don’t believe ’tis more dan he know, too. But it’s all cum ob de bug.”

Finding that no satisfaction was to be obtained of Jupiter, whose whole intellect seemed to be ab-

. . . . .

ward of Fort Moultrie, and a walk of some two miles brought us to the hut. It was about three in the afternoon when we arrived. Legrand had been awaiting us in eager expectation.

He grasped my hand with a nervous *empressement* which alarmed me and strengthened the suspicions already enter-



tained. His countenance was pale even to ghastliness, and his deep-set eyes glared with unnatural lustre. After some inquiries respecting his health, I asked him, not knowing what better to say, if he had yet obtained the *scarabæus* from Lieutenant G——.

next morning. Nothing should tempt me to part with that *scarabæus*. Do you know that Jupiter is quite right about it?"

"In what way?" I asked, with a sad foreboding at heart.

"In supposing it to be a bug of *real gold*." He said this with an air of profound seriousness, and I felt inexpressibly shocked.

"This bug is to make my fortune," he continued, with a triumphant smile, "to reinstate me in my family possessions. Is it any wonder, then, that I prize it? Since Fortune has thought fit to bestow it upon me, I have only to use it



“What! de bug, massa? I'd rudder not go fer trubble dat bug—you must git him for your own self.” Hereupon Legrand arose, with a grave and stately air, and brought me the beetle from a glass case in which it was enclosed. It was a beautiful *scarabeus*, and, at that time, unknown to naturalists—of course a great prize in a scientific point of view. There were two round black spots, near one extremity of the back, and a long one near the other. The scales were exceedingly hard and glossy, with all the appearance of burnished gold. The weight of the insect was very remarkable, and taking all things into consideration, I could hardly blame Jupiter for his opinion respecting it; but what to make of Legrand's concordance with that

grandiloquent tone, when I had completed my examination of the beetle, "I sent for you, that I might have your counsel and assistance in furthering the views of Fate and of the bug——"

"My dear Legrand," I cried, interrupting him, "you are certainly unwell, and had better use some little precautions. You shall go to bed, and I will remain with you a few days, until you get over this. You are feverish and——"

"Feel my pulse," said he.

I felt it, and, to say the truth, found not the slightest indication of

prescribe for you. In the first place, go to bed. In the next ——”

“ You are mistaken,” he interposed, “ I am as well as I can expect to be under the excitement which I suffer. If you really wish me well, you will relieve this excitement.”

“ And how is this to be done ? ”

“ Very easily. Jupiter and myself are going upon an expedition into the hills, upon the main land, and, in this expedition, we shall need the aid of some person in whom we can confide. You are the only one we can trust. Whether we succeed or fail, the excitement which you now perceive in me will be equally allayed.”

“ I am anxious to oblige you in any way,” I replied ; “ but do you mean to say that this infernal



“ Il n'us.

“ Then, Legrand, I can become a party to no such absurd proceeding.”

“ I am sorry—very sorry—for we shall have to try it by ourselves.”

“ Try it by yourselves! The man is surely mad!—but stay!—how long do you propose to be absent?”

“ Probably all night. We shall start immediately, and be back, at all events, by sunrise.”

“ And will you promise me, upon your honour, that when this freak of yours is over, and the bug busi-

.....  
plicitly, as that of your physician?"

"Yes; I promise; and now let us be off, for we have no time to lose."

With a heavy heart I accompanied my friend. We started about four o'clock—Legrand, Jupiter, the dog, and myself. Jupiter had with him the scythe and spades—the whole of which he insisted upon carrying—more through fear, it seemed to me, of trusting either of the implements within reach of his master, than from any excess of industry or complaisance. His demeanour was dogged in the extreme, and "dat deuced bug" were the sole words which escaped his lips during the journey. For my own part, I had charge of a couple of dark lanterns, while Legrand contented himself with the *scarabeus*,

and he, with me, as he went. When I observed this last, plain evidence of my friend's aberration of mind, I could scarcely refrain from tears. I thought it best, however, to humour his fancy, at least for the present, or until I could adopt some more energetic measures with a chance of success. In the meantime I endeavoured, but all in vain, to sound him in regard to the object of the expedition. Having succeeded in inducing me to accompany him, he seemed unwilling to hold conversation upon any topic of minor importance, and to all my questions vouchsafed no



and, ascending the high grounds on the shore of the mainland, proceeded in a north-westerly direction, through a tract of country excessively wild and desolate, where no trace of a human footstep was to be seen. Legrand led the way with decision; pausing only for an instant, here and there, to consult what appeared to be certain landmarks of his own contrivance upon a former occasion.

In this manner we journeyed for about two hours, and the sun was just setting when we entered a region infinitely more dreary than any yet seen. It was a species of table land, near the summit of an almost inaccessible hill, densely wooded from base to pinnacle, and interspersed with huge crags that appeared to lie loosely upon the soil, and in many cases were prevented

reclined. Deep ravines, in various directions, gave an air of still sterner solemnity to the scene.

The natural platform to which we had clambered was thickly overgrown with brambles, through which we soon discovered that it would have been impossible to force our way but for the scythe; and Jupiter, by direction of his master, proceeded to clear for us a path to the foot of an enormously tall tulip-tree, which stood, with some eight or ten oaks, upon the level, and far surpassed them all, and all other trees which I had then ever seen, in the beauty  
in the wide



... Twirling it to and  
o, with the air of a  
n jurer, as he went...

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When we reached this tree, Legrand turned to Jupiter, and asked him if he thought he could climb it. The old man seemed a little staggered by the question, and for some moments made no reply. At length he approached the huge trunk, walked slowly around it, and examined it with minute attention. When he had completed his scrutiny, he merely said :

“ Yes, massa, Jup climb any tree he ebber see in he life.”

“ Then up with you as soon as possible, for it will soon be too dark to see what we are about.”

“ How far mus go up, massa ?” inquired Jupiter.

“ Get up the main trunk first, and then I will tell you which way to go—and here—stop! take this beetle with you.”



de bug way up de ...  
I do!"

"If you are afraid, Jup, a big negro like you, to take h a harmless little dead beetle, you can carry it up by this str but if you do not take it up you in some way, I shall be the necessity of breaking you with this shovel."

"What de matter now, m said Jup, evidently shame compliance; "always want raise fuss wid old nigger only funnin anyhow. *Me t* bug! what I keer for d  
"ere he took cautiously he

his person as circumstances would permit, prepared to ascend the tree.

In youth, the tulip-tree, or *Liriodendron Tulipiferum*, the most magni-



ficent of American foresters, has a trunk peculiarly smooth, and often rises to a great height without lateral branches; but, in its riper age, the bark becomes gnarled and uneven, while many short limbs make their appearance on the stem.

blance than in reality.  
the huge cylinder, as closely as possible, with his arms and knees, seizing with his hands some projections, and resting his naked toes upon others, Jupiter, after one or two narrow escapes from falling, at length wriggled himself into the first great fork, and seemed to consider the whole business as virtually accomplished. The *risk* of the achievement was, in fact, now over, although the climber was some sixty or seventy feet from the ground.

“Which way mus go now, Massa Will?” he asked.

“Keep up the largest branch—

ble: ascending higher and higher, until no glimpse of his squat figure could be obtained through the dense foliage which enveloped it. Presently his voice was heard in a sort of halloo.

"How much fudder is got for go?"

"How high up are you?" asked Legrand.

"Ebber so fur," replied the negro; "can see de sky fru de top ob de tree."

"Never mind the sky, but attend to what I say. Look down the trunk and count the limbs below you on this side. How many limbs have you passed?"

"One, two, tree, four, fibe—I done pass fibe big limb, massa, pon dis side."

"Then go one limb higher."

"Now, Jup," cried Legrand, evidently much excited, "I want you to work your way out upon that limb as far as you can. If you see anything strange, let me know."

By this time what little doubt I might have entertained of my poor friend's insanity was put finally at rest. I had no alternative but to conclude him stricken with lunacy, and I became seriously anxious about getting him home. While I was pondering upon what was best to be done, Jupiter's voice was again heard.

"Mos feerd for to ventur pon dis

limb, Jupiter?" cried Legrand in a quavering voice.

"Yes, massa, him dead as de door-nail—done up for sartain—done departed dis here life."

"What in the name of heaven shall I do?" asked Legrand, seemingly in the greatest distress.

"Do!" said I, glad of an opportunity to interpose a word; "why, come home and go to bed. Come now!—that's a fine fellow. It's getting late, and, besides, you remember your promise."

"Jupiter," cried he, without heeding me in the least, "do you hear me?"

"Yes, Massa Will, hear you ebber so plain."

"Try the wood well, then, with your knife, and see if you think it *very* rotten."

.....  
"e nuff,"  
oments,  
mought  
etle way  
"s true."  
do you

ig. 'Tis  
drop him  
mb won't  
t ob one

!" cried  
relieved,  
elling me  
As sure  
I'll break  
upiter, do

hollo at

-if you will

venture out on the limb as far as you think safe, and not let go the beetle, I'll make you a present of a silver dollar as soon as you get down."

"I'm gwine, Massa Will—deed I is," replied the negro very promptly — "mos out to the eend now."

"*Out to the end!*" here fairly screamed

Legrand; "do you say you are out to the end of that limb?"

"Soon be to de eend, massa,—o-o-o-oh! Lor-gol-a-marcy! what *is* dis here pon de tree?"

"Well!" cried Legrand, highly delighted, "what is it?"





bit ob de meat off."

"A skull, you say!—very well!  
—how is it fastened to the limb?—  
what holds it on?"

"Sure nuff, massa; mus look.  
Why, dis berry curious sarcum-  
stance, pon my word—dare's a great  
big nail in de skull, what fastens ob  
it on to de tree."

"Well now, Jupiter, do exactly  
as I tell you—do you hear?"

"Yes, massa."

"Pay attention, then!—find the  
left eye of the skull."

"Hum! hoo! dat's good! why,  
dare aint no eye lef at all."

“ Yes, I nose dat—nose all bout dat—’tis my lef hand what I chops de wood wid.”

“ To be sure! you are left-handed; and your left eye is on the same side as your left hand. Now, I suppose you can find the left eye of the skull, or the place where the left eye has been. Have you found it?”

Here was a long pause. At length the negro asked—

“ Is de lef eye of de skull pon de same side as de lef hand of de skull, too?—cause de skull aint got not a bit ob a hand at all—nebber mind! I got de lef eye now—here de lef eye! what mus do wid it?”

“ Let the beetle drop through it, as far as the string will reach—but be careful and not let go your hold of the string.”

note—look out for him here below

During this colloquy no portion of Jupiter's person could be seen but the beetle, which he had suffered to descend, was now visible at the end of the string, and glistened like a globe of burnished gold, the last rays of the setting sun, some of which still faintly illuminated the eminence upon which we stood. The *scarabeus* hung quite clear of any branches, and, if allowed to fall, would have fallen at our feet. Legrand immediately took the scytal and cleared with it a circular space three or four yards in diameter just beneath the insect, and, havi



Driving a peg, with great nicety, into the ground, at the precise spot where the beetle fell, my friend now produced from his pocket a tape-measure. Fastening one end of this at that point of the trunk of the tree which was nearest the peg, he unrolled it till it reached the peg, and thence farther unrolled it, in the direction already established by the two points of the tree and the peg, for the distance of fifty feet, Jupiter clearing away the brambles with the scythe. At the spot thus attained a second peg was driven, and about this, as a centre, a rude circle, about four feet in diameter, described. Taking now a spade himself, and giving one to Jupiter and one to me, Legrand begged us to set about digging as quickly as possible.

at any time, and, at that particular moment, would most willingly have declined it; for the night was coming on, and I felt much fatigued with the exercise already taken; but I saw no mode of escape, and was fearful of disturbing my poor friend's equanimity by a refusal. Could I have depended, indeed, upon Jupiter's aid, I would have had no hesitation in attempting to get the lunatic home by force; but I was too well assured of the old negro's disposition to hope that he would assist me, under any circumstances, in a personal contest with his master.



...Jupiter clearing away  
the brambles with the  
scythe...

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phantasy had received confirmation by the finding of the *scarabæus*, or, perhaps, by Jupiter's obstinacy in maintaining it to be "a bug of real gold." A mind disposed to lunacy would readily be led away by such suggestions—especially if chiming in with favourite preconceived ideas — and then I called to mind the poor fellow's speech about the beetle's being "the index of his fortune." Upon the whole I was sadly vexed and puzzled, but, at length, I concluded to make a virtue of necessity—to dig with a good will, and thus the sooner to convince the visionary, by ocular demonstration, of the fallacy of the opinions he entertained.

The lanterns having been lit, we all fell to work with a zeal worthy of a more rational cause; and, as



ing men picturesque & group we composed, and how strange and suspicious our labours must have appeared to any interloper who, by chance, might have stumbled upon our whereabouts.

We dug very steadily for two hours. Little was said; and our chief embarrassment lay in the yelpings of the dog, who took exceeding interest in our proceedings. He, at length, became so obstreperous that we grew fearful of his giving the alarm to some stragglers in the vicinity; or, rather, this was the apprehension of Legrand; for myself, I should have rejoiced at



very effectually silenced by Jupiter, who, getting out of the hole with a dogged air of deliberation, tied the brute's mouth up with one of his suspenders, and then returned, with a grave chuckle, to his task.

When the time mentioned had expired, we had reached a depth of five feet, and yet no signs of any treasure became manifest. A general pause ensued, and I began to hope that the farce was at an end. Legrand, however, although evidently much disconcerted, wiped his brow thoughtfully and recommenced. We had excavated the entire circle of four feet diameter, and now we slightly enlarged the limit, and went to the farther depth of two feet. Still nothing appeared. The gold seeker, whom I sincerely pitied, at length clambered from the pit,

proceeded, slowly and reluctantly to put on his coat, which he thrown off at the beginning of labour. In the meantime I no remark. Jupiter, at a signal from his master, began to gather up his tools. This done, and the dog having been unmuzzled, turned in profound silence toward home.

We had taken, perhaps, a few steps in this direction, when, with a loud oath, Legrand strode toward Jupiter, and seized him by the collar. The astonished negro opened his eyes and mouth to the full



tween his clenched teeth—"you infernal black villain!—speak, I tell you!—answer me this instant, without prevarication?—which—which is your left eye?"

"Oh, my golly, Massa Will! aint dis here my lef eye for sartain?" roared the terrified Jupiter, placing his hand upon his *right* organ of vision, and holding it there with a desperate pertinacity, as if in immediate dread of his master's attempt at a gouge.

"I thought so!—I knew it! hurrah!" vociferated Legrand, letting the negro go, and executing a series of curvets and caracoles, much to the astonishment of his valet, who, arising from his knees, looked, mutely, from his master to myself, and then from myself to his master.

"Come! we must go back," said

and he again led the way to the tulip tree.

"Jupiter," said he, when we reached its foot, "come here! Was the skull nailed to the limb with the face outwards, or with the face to the limb?"

"De face was out, massa, so dat de crows could get at de eyes good, widout any trouble."

"Well, then, was it this eye or that through which you dropped the beetle?"—here Legrand touched each of Jupiter's eyes.

"Twas dis eye, massa—de lef eye—jis as you tell me," and here it was his right eye that the negro indi-



madness I now saw, or fancied that I saw, certain indications of method, removed the peg which marked the spot where the beetle fell, to a spot about three inches to the westward of its former position. Taking, now, the tape-measure



from the nearest point of the trunk to the peg, as before, and continuing the extension in a straight line to the distance of fifty feet, a spot was indicated, removed, by several yards, from the point at which we had been digging.



... larger than in  
instance, was now describ  
again set to work with  
I was dreadfully weary, b  
understanding what had  
the change in my thoug  
no longer any great av  
the labour imposed. I ha  
most unaccountably interes  
even excited. Perhaps t  
something, amid all the ex  
demeanour of Legrand—so  
forethought, or of deli  
which impressed me. I dug  
and now and then caught  
actually looking, with so  
that very much resembled



fully possessed me, and when we had been at work perhaps an hour and a half, we were again interrupted by the violent howlings of the dog. His uneasiness, in the first instance, had been, evidently, but the result of playfulness or caprice, but he now assumed a bitter and serious tone. Upon Jupiter's again attempting to muzzle him, he made furious resistance, and leaping into the hole, tore up the mould frantically with his claws. In a few seconds he had uncovered a mass of human bones, forming two complete skeletons, intermingled with several buttons of metal and what appeared to be the dust of decayed woollen. One or two strokes of a spade upturned the blade of a large Spanish knife, and, as we dug farther, three or four loose pieces



At sight of these  
Jupiter could scarcely be  
but the countenance of  
wore an air of extreme  
ment. He urged us, h  
continue our exertions, an  
were hardly uttered when  
and fell forward, having  
toe of my boot in a large r  
that lay half buried in the lc

We now worked in ear  
never did I pass ten m  
more intense excitement.  
this interval we had fairly  
an oblong chest of wood  
from its perfect preserve

and a half long, three feet broad, and two and a half feet deep. It was firmly secured by bands of wrought iron, riveted, and forming a kind of open trellis-work over the whole. On each side of the chest, near the top, were three rings of iron—six in all—by means of which a firm hold could be obtained by six persons. Our utmost united endeavours served only to disturb the coffer very slightly in its bed. We at once saw the impossibility of removing so great a weight. Luckily, the sole fastenings of the lid consisted of two sliding bolts. These we drew back, trembling and panting with anxiety. In an instant, a treasure



lanterns fell within the  
flashed upwards a glow a  
from a confused heap of  
of jewels, that absolute  
our eyes.

I shall not pretend to de  
feelings with which I gazed  
ment was, of course, pre  
Legrand appeared exhaus  
excitement, and spoke  
words. Jupiter's countena  
for some minutes, as deadl  
as it is possible, in the r  
things, for any negro's v  
assume. He seemed stu  
thunderstricken. Presently



a bath. At length, with a deep sigh, he exclaimed, as if in a soliloquy :

“ And dis all cum ob de goole bug! de putty goole bug! de poor little goole bug, what I boosed in dat sabage kind ob style! Aint you shamed ob yourself, nigger?— answer me dat!”

It became necessary, at last, that I should arouse both master and valet to the expediency of removing the treasure. It was growing late, and it behoved us to make exertion, that we might get everything housed before daylight. It was difficult to say what should be done, and much time was spent in deliberation—so confused were the ideas of all. We finally lightened the box by removing two-thirds of its contents, when we were enabled, with some trouble,

orders from Jupiter neither, any pretence, to stir from the nor to open his mouth until return. We then hurriedly for home with the chest; reached the hut in safety, but after excessive toil, at one o'clock in the morning. Worn out as we were, it was not human nature to do more immediately. We rested until two, and had supper; starting for the hills immediately afterwards, armed with two stout sacks, which, by good luck were upon the premises. A little before four we arrived at the divide and divided the remainder of the baggage equally between us.



set out for the hut, at which, for the second time, we deposited our golden burthens, just as the first faint streaks of the dawn gleamed from over the tree-tops in the East.

We were now thoroughly broken down; but the intense excitement of the time denied us repose. After an unquiet slumber of some three or four hours' duration, we arose, as if by preconcert, to make examination of our treasure.

The chest had been full to the brim, and we spent the whole day, and the greater part of the next night, in a scrutiny of its contents. There had been nothing like order or arrangement. Everything had been heaped in promiscuously. Having assorted all with care, we found ourselves possessed of even vaster wealth than we had at first

... than four hundred and  
thousand dollars, estimating  
value of the pieces, as accurately  
we could, by the tables of the  
There was not a particle of  
All was gold of antique date  
of great variety—French, Spanish  
and German money, with  
English guineas, and some coins  
of which we had never seen  
mens before. There were some  
very large and heavy coins  
worn that we could make no  
of their inscriptions. There was  
American money. The value of  
jewels we found more difficult  
estimating. There were diamonds



three hundred and ten emeralds, all very beautiful; and twenty-one sapphires, with an opal. These stones had all been broken from their settings and thrown loose in the chest. The settings themselves, which we picked out from among the other gold, appeared to have been beaten up with hammers, as if to prevent identification. Besides all this, there was a vast quantity of solid gold ornaments; nearly two hundred massive finger and ear rings; rich chains—thirty of these, if I remember; eighty-three very large and heavy crucifixes; five gold censers of great value; a prodigious golden punch-bowl, ornamented with richly-chased vine-leaves and Bacchanalian figures; with two sword-handles, exquisitely embossed, and many other smaller articles



which I cannot recollect. *The* weight of these valuables exceeded three hundred and fifty pounds avoirdupois; and in this estimate I have not included one hundred and ninety-seven superb gold watches; three of the number being worth each five hundred dollars, if one. Many of them were very old, and, as time-keepers, valueless, the works having suffered, more or less, from corrosion; but all were richly jewelled, and in cases of great worth. We estimated the entire contents of the chest, that night, at a million and a half of dollars; and upon the subsequent disposal of the trinkets and jewels (a few being retained for our own use), it was found that we had greatly undervalued the treasure.

When, at length, we had conclu-



ded our examination, and the intense excitement of the time had, in some measure, subsided, Legrand, who saw that I was dying with impatience for a solution of this most extraordinary riddle, entered into a full detail of all the circumstances connected with it.



“ You remember,” said he, “ the night when I handed you the rough sketch I had made of the *scarabeus*. You recollect, also, that I became quite vexed at you for insisting that my drawing resembled a death's-head. When you first made this assertion I thought you were jesting; but afterwards I called to

self that your remark h  
foundation in fact. Si  
at my graphic powers  
for I am considered a  
and, therefore, when y  
the scrap of parchment  
to crumple it up and th  
into the fire."

" The scrap of pape  
said I.

" No ; it had much  
ance of paper, and a  
posed it to be such,  
came to draw upon it  
it, at once, to be a  
thin parchment. It w



.....

may imagine my astonishment when I perceived, in fact, the figure of a death's-head just where, it seemed to me, I had made the drawing of a beetle. For a moment I was too much amazed to think with accuracy. I knew that my design was very different in detail from this—although there was a certain similarity in general outline. Presently I took a candle, and seating myself at the other end of the room, proceeded to scrutinize the parchment more closely. Upon turning it over, I saw my own sketch upon the reverse, just as I had made it. My first idea, now, was mere surprise at the really remarkable similarity of outline—at the singular coincidence involved in the fact, that, unknown to me, there should have been a skull upon the other

— beneath my figure of the sea  
and that this skull, not c  
outline, but in size, shou  
closely resemble my drawi  
say the singularity of this  
dence absolutely stupefied me  
time. This is the usual eff  
such coincidences. The mind  
gles to establish a connecti  
sequence of cause and effect—  
being unable to do so, suffi  
species of temporary paralysis.  
when I recovered from this stu  
there dawned upon me gradual  
conviction which startled me  
far more than the coincidence  
began distinctly positively .

for I recollected turning up first one side and then the other in search of the cleanest spot. Had the skull been then there, of course I could not have failed to notice it. Here was indeed a mystery which I felt it impossible to explain; but, even at that early moment, three seemed to glimmer, faintly, within the most remote and secret chambers of my intellect, a glow-worm-like conception of that truth which last night's adventure brought to so magnificent a demonstration. I arose at once, and putting the parchment securely away, dismissed all further reflection until I should be alone.



myself to a more  
tigation of the aff  
place I considere  
which the parchme  
my possession.  
we discovered the  
the coast of the m  
mile eastward of th  
a short distance  
mark. Upon my  
it gave me a sh  
caused me to let  
with his accustome  
seizing the insect,  
towards him, look  
a leaf, or somethir  
by which to take t



to be paper. It was lying half-buried in the sand, a corner sticking up. Near the spot where we found it I observed the remnants of the hull of what appeared to have been a ship's longboat. The wreck seemed to have been there for a very great while; for the resemblance to boat timbers could scarcely be traced.

“ Well, Jupiter picked up the parchment, wrapped the beetle in it, and gave it to me. Soon afterwards we turned to go home, and on the way met Lieutenant G—. I showed him the insect, and he begged me to let him take it to the fort. Upon my consenting, he thrust it forthwith into his waistcoat pocket, without the parchment in which it had been wrapped and which I had continued to hold in my



and thought it be  
the prize at once  
enthusiastic he  
connected with no  
the same time, w  
scious of it, I m  
the parchment in

“ You rememb  
to the table, fo  
making a sketch  
found no paper w  
kept. I looked i  
found none there  
pockets, hoping t  
when my hand fe  
ment. I thus d



fanciful—but I had already established a kind of *connection*. I had put together two links of a great chain. There was a boat lying upon a sea-coast, and not far from the boat was a parchment—*not a paper*—with a skull depicted upon it. You will, of course, ask ‘where is the connection?’ I reply that the skull, or death’s-head, is the well-known emblem of the pirate. The flag of the death’s-head is hoisted in all engagements.

“I have said that the scrap was parchment, and not paper. Parchment is durable—almost imperishable. Matters of little moment are rarely consigned to parchment; since, for the mere ordinary purposes of drawing or writing, it is not nearly so well adapted as paper. This reflection suggested some mean-

head. I did not  
also, the *form* o  
Although one of  
been, by some ac  
it could be seen  
form was oblong.  
a slip, indeed, as  
chosen for a me:  
record of somethi  
membered and ca

“But,” I inter  
that the skull v  
parchment when  
drawing of the t  
do you trace any c  
the boat and the



“ Ah! hereupon turns the whole mystery; although the secret, at this point, I had comparatively little difficulty in solving. My steps were sure, and could afford but a single result. I reasoned, for example, thus: When I drew the *scarabæus*, there was no skull apparent upon the parchment. When I had completed the drawing I gave it to you, and observed you narrowly until you returned it. *You*, therefore, did not design the skull, and no one else was present to do it. Then it was not done by human agency. And nevertheless it was done.

“ At this stage of my reflections I endeavoured to remember, and *did* remember, with entire distinctness, every incident which occurred about the period in question. The weather was chilly (oh! rare and happy

exercise and sat n  
You, however, had  
close to the chimne  
placed the parchment  
and as you were in  
specting it, Wolf, the  
entered, and leaped  
shoulders. With you  
caressed him and kep  
your right, holding  
was permitted to fa  
tween your knees,  
proximity to the fire.  
I thought the blaze  
and was about to cat  
before I could speak,

agent in bringing to light, upon the parchment, the skull which I saw designed upon it. You are well aware that chemical preparations exist, and have existed time out of



mind, by means of which it is possible to write upon either paper or vellum, so that the characters shall become visible only when subjected to the action of fire. Zaffre, digested in *aqua regia* and diluted with four times its weight of water, is sometimes employed; a green tint

These colours di  
or shorter interval  
written upon cool  
apparent upon the  
heat.

" I now scruti  
head with care.  
the edges of the  
the edge of the  
more *distinct* tha  
was clear that t  
caloric had been  
equal. I immedia  
and subjected eve  
parchment to a  
first, the only effe



site to the spot in which the death's-head was delineated, the figure of what I at first supposed to be a goat. A closer scrutiny, however, satisfied me that it was intended for a kid."

"Ha! ha!" said I, "to be sure I have no right to laugh at you—a million and a half of money is too serious a matter for mirth—but you are not about to establish a third link in your chain—you will not find any especial connection between your pirates and a goat—pirates, you know, have nothing to do with goats; they appertain to the farming interest."

"But I have just said that the figure was *not* that of a goat."

"Well, a kid then—pretty much the same thing."

"Pretty much, but not alto-



have heard of one *Captain*  
at once looked upon the  
the animal as a kind of  
hieroglyphical signature.  
nature, because its posi-  
the vellum suggested  
The death's-head in the  
gonally opposite had, in  
manner, the air of a star  
But I was sorely put to  
absence of all else—of the  
my imagined instrument  
text for my context.”

“I presume you expect  
a letter between the stamp  
signature?”



Captain Kidd...

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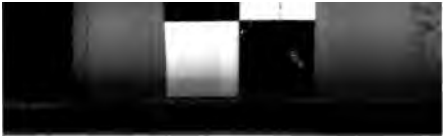
.....

was rather a desire than an actual belief; but do you know that Jupiter's silly words about the bug being of solid gold, had a remarkable effect upon my fancy? And then the series of accidents and coincidences—these were so *very* extraordinary. Do you observe how mere an accident it was that these events should have occurred upon the *sole* day of all the year in which it has been, or may be, sufficiently cool for fire, and that without the fire, or without the intervention of the dog at the precise moment in which he appeared, I should never have become aware of the death's-head, and so never the possessor of the treasure?"

"But proceed—I am all impatience."

"Well; you have heard, of course.

said vague rumour  
money buried, some  
Atlantic coast, by  
associates. These  
have had some four  
And that the rumour  
so long and so cont  
have resulted, it a  
only from the circu  
buried treasure still  
tombbed. Had Kidd  
plunder for a time,  
reclaimed it, the r  
scarcely have reach  
present unvarying fo  
observe that the stor  
about money-seeker



loss of a memorandum indicating its locality—had deprived him of the means of recovering it, and that this accident had become known to his followers, who otherwise might never have heard that treasure had been concealed at all, and who, busying themselves in vain, because unguided attempts to regain it had given first birth, and then universal currency to the reports which are now so common. Have you ever heard of any important treasure being unearthed along the coast?"

"Never."

"But that Kidd's accumulations were immense is well known. I took it for granted, therefore, that the earth still held them; and you will scarcely be surprised when I tell you that I felt a hope, nearly amounting to certainty, that the

voiced a lost record  
of deposit."

"But how did you

"I held the vellum  
fire, after increasing  
nothing appeared.  
it possible that the  
might have something  
the failure; so I  
the parchment by  
water over it, and, but  
I placed it in a tin  
skull downwards, and  
upon a furnace of  
In a few minutes,  
become thoroughly  
moved the skin and

to remain another minute. Upon taking it off, the whole was just as you see it now."

Here Legrand, having re-heated the parchment, submitted it to my inspection. The following characters were rudely traced, in a red tint, between the death's-head and the goat:—

53  $\frac{++}{++}$  + 305 )) 6 °; 4826) 4  $\frac{+}{+}$ .);  
 806 °; 48 + 8 π 60)) 85; 1  $\frac{+}{+}$  (; :  $\frac{+}{+}$  °  
 8 + 83 (88) 5 ° + ; 46 ( ; 88 ° 96 ° ? ; 8)  
 °  $\frac{+}{+}$  (; 485); 5 ° + 2 : °  $\frac{+}{+}$  (; 4956 ° 2  
 ( 5 ° - 4) 8 π 8 ° ; 4069285); )6 + 8)  
 4  $\frac{++}{++}$ ; 1 ( $\frac{+}{+}$  9; 48081; 8 : 8  $\frac{+}{+}$  1; 48 +  
 85 ; 4) 485 + 528806 ° 81 ( $\frac{+}{+}$  9; 48;  
 (88; 4 ( $\frac{+}{+}$  ? 34; 48) 4  $\frac{+}{+}$ ; 161; : 188;  $\frac{+}{+}$  ? ;

"But," said I, returning him the



conda awaiting me upon my  
of this enigma, I am quite  
I should be unable to ear

“And yet,” said Legra  
solution is by no means s  
as you might be led to  
from the first hasty ins  
the characters. These c  
as anyone might readily g  
a cipher—that is to say, th  
a meaning; but then, fro  
known of Kidd, I could n  
him capable of construct  
the more abstruse crypto  
made up my mind, at onc  
was of a simple spe  
however, as would app  
crude intellect of the sailc  
ly insoluble without the

“Readily; I have solved others of an abstruseness ten thousand times greater. Circumstances, and a certain bias of mind, have led me to take interest in such riddles, and it may well be doubted whether human ingenuity can construct an enigma of the kind which human ingenuity may not, by proper application, resolve. In fact, having once established connected and legible characters, I scarcely gave a thought to the mere difficulty of developing their import.

“In the present case—indeed, in all cases of secret writing—the first question regards the *language* of the cipher; for the principles of solution, so far, especially, as the more simple ciphers are concerned, depend upon, and are varied by, the genius of the particular idiom. In general,

tongue known to him who



the solution, until the true or  
attained. But, with the cipher  
before us, all difficulty was ren  
by the signature. The pun  
the word 'Kidd' is appreciat  
no other language than the En  
But for this consideration I s  
have begun my attempts wit  
Spanish and French, as the to  
in which a secret of this kind

a pirate of the Spanish main. As it was, I assumed the cryptograph to be English.

"You observe there are no divisions between the words. Had there been divisions, the task would have been comparatively easy. In such case I should have commenced with a collation and analysis of the shorter words, and, had a word of a single letter occurred, as is most likely (*a* or *I*, for example), I should have considered the solution as assured. But, there being no division, my first step was to ascertain the predominant letters, as well as the least frequent. Counting all, I constructed a table, thus:—

" Of the character 8	there are	33
—	;	— 26
—	4	— 19

84465B

—	+	.....
—	•	—
—	5	—
—	6	—
—	+ 1	—
—	0	—
—	9 2	—
—	: 3	—
—	?	—
—	π	—
—	— .	—

Now, in English, the  
 which most frequently occur:  
 Afterwards, the succession  
 thus: *a o i d h n r s t u y c f g*  
*b k p q x z*. *E* predominat



beginning, the groundwork for something more than a mere guess. The general use which may be made of the table is obvious—but, in this particular cipher, we shall only very partially require its aid. As our predominant character is 8, we will commence by assuming it as the *e* of the natural alphabet. To verify the supposition, let us observe if the 8 be seen often in couples—for *e* is doubled with great frequency in English—in such words, for example, as 'meet,' 'fleet,' 'speed,' 'seen,' 'been,' 'agree,' etc. In the present instance we see it doubled no fewer than five times, although the cryptograph is brief.

Let us assume 8, then, as *e*. Now, of all *words* in the language, 'the' is most usual; let us see, therefore, whether there are not

in the same order of c  
last of them being 8  
cover repetitions of su  
arranged, they will m  
represent the word  
inspection, we find n  
seven such arrangeme  
acters being ;48. We  
fore, assume that; rep  
represents *h*, and 8 re  
the last being now wel  
Thus a great step has

“ But, having establis  
word, we are enabled to  
vastly important point;  
say, several commence  
terminations of other v  
us refer, for example,  
instance but one, in whi

that the ; immediately ensuing is the commencement of a word, and of the six characters succeeding this , the,' we are cognizant of no less than five. Let us set these characters down, thus, by the letters we know them to represent, leaving a space for the unknown—

t eeth.

“ Here we are enabled at once to discard the ‘*th*.’ as forming no portion of the word commencing with the first *t*; since, by experiment of the entire alphabet for a letter adapted to the vacancy, we perceive that no word can be formed of which this *th* can be a part. We are thus narrowed into

t ee,

and, going through the alphabet, if necessary, as before, we arrive at the word ‘*tree*,’ as the sole possible



We thus gain another represented by (, with the 'ie tree' in juxtaposition.

“ Looking beyond these words, for a short distance, we again see the combination ;48, and employ it by way of *termination* to what precedes. We have arrangement:

tree ; + ( + ) 34 the,  
ing the natural letters,  
1, it reads thus  
e thr + ) 3h the.

“ Now, if, in place of the unknown characters, we leave blank spaces, or substitute dots, we read thus :

the tree thr...h the,  
when the word ‘ *through* ’ makes itself evident at once. But this discovery gives us three new letters, *o*, *u* and *g*, represented by  $\frac{+}{+}$ ,  $\frac{+}{+}$  and  $\frac{+}{+}$ .

“ Looking now, narrowly, through the cipher for combinations of known characters, we find, not very far from the beginning, this arrangement,

83(88, or egrec,  
which, plainly, is the conclusion of the word ‘ *degree*, ’ and gives us another letter, *d*, represented by  $\frac{+}{+}$ .

“ Four letters beyond the word ‘ *degrec*. ’ we perceive the combination

;46(;88

by dots, as before, we read  
th rtee,

an arrangement immediately suggestive of the word 'thirteen,' again furnishing us with two characters, *i* and *n*, represented 6 and 7.

“ Referring, now, to the beginning of the cryptograph, we the combination,

53 ++ +  
++ +

“ Translating, as before, obtain

. good,

which assures us that the first is A and that the first two are 'A good.'

“ It is now time that we a



tabular form, to avoid confusion.  
It will stand thus :

5	represents	a
+	—	d
8	—	e
3	—	g
4	—	h
6	—	i
.	—	n
+	—	o
+	—	
(	—	r
,	—	t

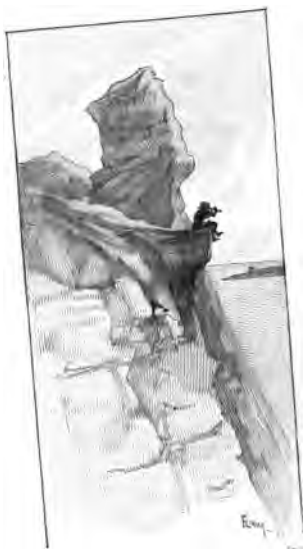
“ We have, therefore, no less than ten of the most important letters represented, and it will be unnecessary to proceed with the details of the solution. I have said enough to convince you that ciphers of this nature are readily soluble, and to give you some insight into the *rationale* of their development.

simplest species of cryptograph now only remains to give you full translation of the chara upon the parchment, as unrid Here it is :

*' A good glass in the bishop's ho:  
the devil's seat forty-one degree:  
thirteen minutes north-east and by  
main branch seventh limb east side  
from the left eye of the death's h  
bee line from the tree through th  
fifty feet out.' "*

" But," said I, " the er seems still in as bad a conditi ever. How is it possible to a meaning from all this j about ' devil's seats,' ' d heads,' and ' bishop's hotels' "

" I don't know," replied I.



... "A good glass in the  
bishop's hostel in the  
devil's seat..."

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serious aspect, when regarded with a casual glance. My first endeavour was to divide the sentence into the natural division intended by the cryptographer.

"You mean, to punctuate it?"

"Something of that kind."

"But how was it possible to effect this?"

"I reflected that it had been a *point* with the writer to run his words together without division, so as to increase the difficulty of solution. Now, a not over-acute man, in pursuing such an object, would be nearly certain to overdo the matter. When, in the course of his composition, he arrived at a break in his subject which would naturally require a pause, or a point, he would be exceedingly apt to run his characters, at this place,



If you will observe  
present instance,  
detect five such  
crowding. Acting  
made the division

*'A good glass  
bore in the Devi  
degrees and thirteen  
east and by no  
seventh limb east  
left eye of the death  
from the tree throug  
out.'*"

"Even this di  
leaves me still in

"It left me al  
replied Legrand, '  
during which I ma  
in the neighbourh



Hotel;' for, of course, I dropped the obsolete word, 'hostel.' Gaining no information on the subject, I was on the point of extending my sphere of search, and, proceeding in a more systematic manner, when, one morning, it entered into my head, quite suddenly, that this 'Bishop's Hostel' might have some reference to an old family, of the name of Bessop, which, time out of mind, had held possession of an ancient manor-house, about four miles the northward of the Island. I accordingly went over to the plantation, and re-instituted my inquiries among the older negroes of the place. At length one of the most aged of the women said that she had heard of such a place as *Bessop's Castle*, and thought that she could guide me to it, but

that it was not a castle, nor a tavern, but a high rock.

“ I offered to pay her well for her trouble, and, after some demur, she consented to accompany me to the spot. We found it without much difficulty, when, dismissing her, I proceeded to examine the place. The ‘castle’ consisted of an irregular assemblage of cliffs and rocks—one of the latter being quite remarkable for its height as well as for its insulated and artificial appearance. I clambered to its apex, and then felt much at a loss as to what should be next done.

“ While I was busied in reflection, my eyes fell upon a narrow ledge in the eastern face of the rock, perhaps a yard below the summit upon which I stood. This



ledge projected about eighteen inches, and was not more than a foot wide, while a niche in the cliff just above it gave it a rude resemblance to one of the hollow-backed chairs used by our ancestors. I made no doubt that here was the 'devil's seat' alluded to in the MS., and now I seemed to grasp the full secret of the riddle.

"The 'good glass,'" I knew, could have reference to nothing but a telescope; for the word 'glass' is rarely employed in any other sense by seamen. Now here, I at once saw, was a telescope to be used, and a definite point of view, *admitting no variation*, from which to use it. Nor did I hesitate to believe that the phrases, 'forty-one degrees and thirteen minutes,' and , north-east and by north,' were

procured a telescope, and  
to the rock.

"I let myself down to  
and found that it was im-  
retain a seat upon it ex-  
particular position. Thi  
firmed my preconceived  
proceeded to use the  
course, the 'forty-one d  
thirteen minutes' could  
nothing but elevation  
visible horizon, since the  
direction was clearly in  
the words, 'north-eas  
north.' This latter dir  
once established by r  
pocket-compass; then, I  
glass as nearly at a  
forty-one degrees of el

could do it by guess, I moved it cautiously up or down, until my attention was arrested by a circular rift or opening in the foliage of a large tree that overtopped its fellows in the distance. In the centre of this rift I perceived a white spot, but could not, at first, distinguish what it was. Adjusting the focus of the telescope, I again looked, and now made it out to be a human skull.

“ Upon this discovery I was so sanguine as to consider the enigma solved; for the phrase ‘main branch, seventh limb, east side,’ could refer only to the position of the skull upon the tree, while ‘shoot from the left eye of the death’s-head’ admitted, also, of but one interpretation, in regard to a search for buried treasure. I per-

skull, and that a bee-line  
other words, a straight line  
from the nearest point of the  
through 'the shot' (or the point  
where the bullet fell), and  
extended to a distance of five  
would indicate a definite  
and beneath this point I think  
at least *possible* that a definite  
value lay concealed."

"All this," I said, "is  
ingly clear, and, although  
still simple and explicit,  
you left the Bishop's House  
then?"

"Why, having caref



get a glimpse of it afterwards, turn as I would. What seems to me the chief ingenuity in this whole business, is the fact (for repeated experiment has convinced me it *is* a fact) that the circular opening in question is visible from no other attainable point of view than that afforded by the narrow ledge upon the face of the rock.

“ In this expedition to the ‘Bishop’s Hotel’ I had been attended by Jupiter, who had, no doubt, observed, for some weeks past, the abstraction of my demeanour, and took especial care not to leave me alone. But, on the next day, get-





the nuts in so  
After much toil  
came home at r  
posed to give me  
the rest of the  
you are as well  
self."

"I suppose,"  
the spot, in th  
digging, through  
ity in letting th  
the right instea  
left eye of the sk

"Precisely. T  
a difference of ab  
a half in the 'she  
in the position



'shot,' together with the nearest point of the tree, were merely two points of the establishment of a line of direction ; of course the error, however trivial in the beginning, increased as we proceeded with the line, and by the time we had gone fifty feet, threw us quite off the scent. But for my deep-seated impression that treasure was here somewhere actually buried, we might have had all our labour in vain."

"But your grandiloquence, and your conduct in swinging the beetle—how excessively odd ! I was sure you were mad. And why did you insist upon letting fall the bug, instead of a bullet, from the skull?"

"Why, to be frank, I felt somewhat annoyed by your evident suspicions touching my sanity, and so

my own way, to  
mystification.

swung the balance  
reason I let it fall  
observation of the  
weight suggests

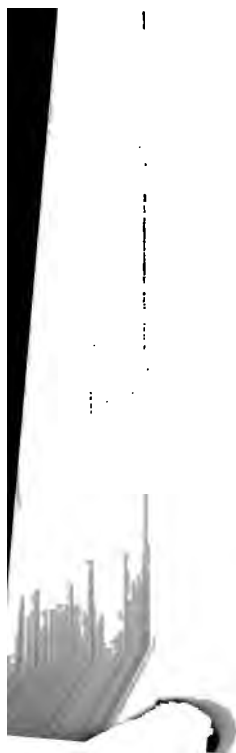
“ Yes, I perceive  
is only one point  
What are we to  
tons found in the


“ That is a  
more able to answer  
There seems, however,  
plausible way  
them—and yet  
believe in such a  
suggestion would  
that Kidd—if Kidd  
this treasure, what



concluded, he may have thought it expedient to remove all participants in his secret. Perhaps a couple of blows with a mattock were sufficient, while his coadjutors were busy in the pit; perhaps it required a dozen—who shall tell?"







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